

STREAMS AND RIPARIAN RESOURCES

WHEREAS, trees, shrubs, and grasses that grow along Arizona's surface and subsurface water courses form one of the State's most unique, rare, and endangered ecosystems: streams and riparian areas; and

WHEREAS, riparian resources are of substantial economic importance to the State of Arizona due to their numerous uses for grazing, mining, farming, timber harvesting, recreational and residential development; and

WHEREAS, stream and riparian areas in their natural condition can increase groundwater recharge, maintain or improve water quality, provide recreational opportunities and wildlife habitat, and offer open space with aesthetic and natural values; and

WHEREAS, Arizona's population growth will bring additional pressure to bear upon these rapidly diminishing resources; and

WHEREAS, to facilitate the accomplishment of statewide recognition, protection, and proper utilization of Arizona's stream and riparian resources, state and federal agencies and citizen groups have for the past fifteen months assessed the issues surrounding the management of riparian resources;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rose Mofford, Governor of the State of Arizona, do hereby direct:

1. All state agencies to determine whether current and proposed policies, actions, requirements, and funding impact on stream and riparian resources and, when appropriate, to implement changes that will allow for restoration of riparian resources; and

2. The formation of a riparian habitat task force composed of representatives from the State Land Department, State Parks Department, Department of Water Resources, Department of Environmental Quality, Game and Fish Department, Department of Commerce, Office of Tourism, Department of Transportation, and the State Geologic Survey which shall be chaired by a representative of the Commission on the Arizona Environment. The task force shall:

- a) develop a classification system for riparian habitat to be used by all State agencies;
- b) inventory existing riparian areas;
- c) identify key riparian areas;
- d) make recommendations for further State agency action, public awareness and education programs, and incentives for private landowner cooperation;
- e) consult with members of the public, Indian tribes, local government, federal agencies, and private groups;
- f) make legislative recommendations;
- g) report its findings and recommendations to the Governor no later than October 31 of each year.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed on the Great Seal of the State of Arizona.



G O V E R N O R

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix this tenth day of June in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-Nine and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Thirteenth.

ATTEST:



Secretary of State



DEPARTMENT OF
STATE DOCUMENTS
STATE DOCUMENTS